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Lancaster Rural District Council



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1956

Frank N. Shires, Ltd., Mary St., Lancaster

Lancaster Rural District Council



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Councillor R. Armer.

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„ Rev. R. Stevenson.

„ R. Walker.

„ W. Wilcock.

STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health:

R. W. FARQUHAR, B.Sc. (Agri.), M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :

KENNETH H DOCTON ° †

First Assistant Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :

CLIFFORD HYDE °

Second Assistant Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :

GEORGE SUMNER.

° Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

† Member Inst. Municipal and County Engineers.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the
Lancaster Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Lancaster Rural District during 1956.

The estimated population at mid-year 1956 was ¹²⁸²⁰~~12,680~~, an increase of 765, or 6.3 per cent, since the 1951 census, largely brought about by immigration into the District.

The crude birth rate at 11.9 per 1,000 population was the lowest recorded in recent years: on the other hand the crude death rate at 14.4 per 1,000 was above the average of 12.8 for the previous 5 years. Coronary thrombosis was the greatest single cause of death in 1956. The report also draws attention to the association between cigarette smoking and lung cancer, which has now been proved beyond reasonable doubt.

Although the 6 infant deaths in 1956 put the infant mortality rate up to 39 per 1,000 live births, the average rate over the preceding 5 years was approximately 25, which compares favourably with the average rate for the Administrative County during the same period. Much more reliance can be placed on long term changes in birth and death rates as described on page 12.

The incidence of infectious diseases was at a low level throughout the year. The district remained clear of poliomyelitis and only one case of food poisoning was reported. Eight cases of tuberculosis were notified in 1956, against 13 in the previous year, and mortality from this disease has declined considerably in recent years. Non-pulmonary tuberculosis is now becoming a rare disease in this country as the consumption of milk, either heat treated or from tubercle free herds, increases.

There is still considerable prejudice, however, against pasteurised milk. Many people appear to be unaware that the consumption of raw tuberculin tested milk minimises the risk from tuberculosis only, whilst heat treated milk can be regarded as affording the maximum possible protection against all milk-borne diseases. The risk of brucellosis or undulant fever, which is a disease conveyed to humans in raw milk from a herd which is not free from contagious abortion, is not insignificant in this area.

The wet summer of 1956, was unfavourable both to agriculture and to the tourist and holiday trade in the district, but no serious flooding occurred. The progress made in recent years in improving rural sewerage schemes continues. In reporting on the sanitary circumstances of the area, the Public Health Inspector has drawn attention to the improvement schemes for the treatment of sewage or disposal of effluent at Overton, Middleton and Cockerham, and the laying of relief sewers at Bolton-le-Sands.

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, which came into operation on 1st January, 1956, should result in a considerable improvement in the hygienic standards of persons, premises and equipment concerned with the handling of food. A systematic survey of all "food premises" revealed that food traders in general had responded well to the new requirements. The supervision by the Public Health Inspector of premises where food is prepared, stored and sold can only be of a limited nature, however, and the public can play an important part in raising standards by showing more discrimination.

That the housing needs of the district have largely been met, is shown by the small number of applicants on the waiting list for council dwellings, although 112 new houses and flats were built during the year by persons or bodies other than the local authority. Satisfactory progress was made in dealing with the 24 unfit houses scheduled for demolition or closure by 1960. Fuller advantage was taken during 1956 of the improvement grants available under the Housing Act, 1949, resulting in improvements in the way of modern amenities to 34 houses and the provision of 2 additional dwellings.

On the whole the year 1956 can be regarded as one of modest progress.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
R. W. FARQUHAR,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the District (acres)
 Population (Registrar-General's estimate) mid year 1956
 Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books
 Rateable Value
 Sum represented by a Penny Rate

53,212
 12,820
 4,316
 £173,379
 £722

Parish	Area in Acres		Population		Inhabited Houses		Rateable Value in £	
	1901	1951	1901	1951	1901	1955	1901	1955
Aldcliffe	680	—	88	—	16	—	1612	—
Ashton-with-Stodday	1459	1295	181	95	37	26	3322	916
Bolton-le-Sands	1579	1843	902	1937	205	894	9661	16110
Cockerham	5561	5926	677	637	119	154	8103	2674
Cockersand Abbey	251	—	53	—	6	—	538	—
Ellel	5813	5811	1812	2091	372	645	18189	9739
Heaton-with-Oxcliffe	1683	2010	165	272	21	84	3257	3972
Middleton	1199	1400	172	478	30	136	1946	18980
Overton	1127	1799	323	356	70	149	3016	1772
Over Wyresdale	17318	17346	464	415	85	98	6481	3405
Priest Hutton	1085	1085	172	172	41	56	2331	1215
Scotforth	2137	1801	251	238	40	82	4715	4739
Silverdale	1168	1850	592	1065	136	386	5158	7894
Slyne-with-Hest	1631	1811	487	1634	103	598	9760	13737
Thurnham	1503	1983	528	475	113	150	3534	2434
Wharton-with-Lindeth (Warton)	2824	3534	1492	1671	329	583	12947	8210
Yealand Conyers	2135	1582	267	212	54	73	3996	1529
Yealand Redmayne	1581	2136	191	307	44	93	4335	1495
Total	50734	53212	8802	12055	1821	4207	101901	98821

The District is largely rural in character, and is a popular residential area. Agriculture is the most important, if not the largest industry. Other industries are quarrying, building, textiles and catering for tourists and holiday makers. By far the largest industrial undertaking is the Trimpell petroleum refinery at Middleton which absorbs a considerable proportion of labour from the Rural District and the neighbouring towns.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR YEAR, 1956.

Population : Registrar-General's Estimate, mid 1956, 12,820.

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births (Legitimate)	74	76	150
(Illegitimate)	2	1	3
Total	76	77	153
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population		11.9	
Stillbirths	2	1	3
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births		19	
Deaths (all causes)	96	88	184
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population		14.4	
Deaths from Maternal Causes		Nil	
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births		Nil	
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate Infants	2	4	6
Illegitimate Infants	—	—	—
All Infants	2	4	6
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births		39	
Deaths from Specified Diseases.			
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		28	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		Nil	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		Nil	

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1956 AND THE PERIOD 1951-1955.

Year	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality		
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		
									No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	Neo-natal Rate per 1,000 live births
1956	153	*11.9	184	†14.4	3	19.2	Nil	Nil	6	39	33
" 1955	162	12.8	176	13.9	4	24.0	Nil	Nil	6	37	25
" 1954	184	14.8	169	13.6	3	16.0	Nil	Nil	2	11	11
" 1953	188	15.4	130	10.6	1	5.0	1	5.29	3	16	11
" 1952	173	14.4	147	12.2	3	17.0	Nil	Nil	5	29	17
" 1951	185	15.4	164	13.7	5	26.0	Nil	Nil	6	32	27
Average 5 years 1951-1955	—	14.5	—	12.8	—	17.9	—	1.08	—	24.6	18

* Adjusted live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.09 = 13.0 per 1,000 population.

† Adjusted death-rate (comparability factor, 0.88) = 12.6 per 1,000 population.

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

1. **Population.** The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of Lancaster Rural District at mid-year 1956 was 12,820, an increase of 140 over the previous year. The population at the 1951 census was 12,055, so that the total estimated increase since that date is 765 or 6.3%. Since the natural increase (i.e., excess of births over deaths) during these five years was only 54 the remainder, 711 must be attributed to the influx of new residents.
2. **Births.** Registered live births totalled 153 in 1956, 9 less than in 1955, which gives a crude birth rate of 11.9 per 1,000 population. On adjusting with the District's comparability factor the rate becomes 13.0 per 1,000. This latter figure may be compared with the adjusted rate of 15.7 for the Administrative County and with the crude rate of 15.7 for England and Wales.
3. **Deaths.** The total number of deaths from all causes was 184, an increase of 8 over 1955 and the highest number assigned to the District in recent years, giving a crude death rate of 14.4 per 1,000 population. The adjusted death rate was 12.6, the comparable rates for the county and for the whole country being 13.7 and 11.7 respectively.

As in recent years the greatest toll of life was taken by diseases common to the second half of life, by heart disease and cancer in particular. The greatest single cause of death was coronary thrombosis, which accounted for 42 cases, almost 23 per cent of the total. This disease is characteristic in that it most often strikes people in middle age, reflecting perhaps the increased tempo of modern life.

4. **Deaths from Cancer.** The table below, covering the period 1950-56, compares the annual total deaths from all causes with deaths from all kinds of cancer and from cancer of the lung alone:—

Year	Total Deaths (All Causes)	Cancer Deaths (all types)	Deaths from Cancer of Lung and Bronchus
1950	154	17	1
1951	164	21	5
1952	147	28	4
1953	130	26	5
1954	169	31	5
1955	176	18	1
1956	184	28	4
Total	1124	169	25
Average 1950-56	160.6	24.1	3.6

The average number of cancer deaths in the period 1950-56 was 24 but reference to the table on Page 14 shows the average number for the 10 years, 1941-50, was 20 and for the previous decade 15. It may be noted also that the 28 deaths from cancer in 1956 are equivalent to a mortality rate of 2.18 per 1,000 population, compared to an average rate of 0.65 for the period 1901-10.

In estimating the significance of this increase account must be taken of the ageing structure of the population as well as the effect of improved facilities for diagnosis and early treatment. In its early stages cancer is a curable condition or at least early treatment can provide the expectancy of many more years of useful life.

The association between cigarette smoking and lung cancer has now been proved beyond reasonable doubt and our children should be made well aware of the dangers to which they are exposing themselves in adopting this habit.

5. **Infant Mortality.** As in the previous year 6 babies died before reaching their first birthday, giving an infant mortality rate of 39 per 1,000 live births. Put another way this means that of every 100 births, 4 are lost within a year. Owing to the smallness of the absolute figures the mortality rate can vary considerably from year to year, and the average rate for the preceding five years was 24.6 per 1,000 live births.
6. **Long-term Trends in Vital Statistics, 1891-1956.** A much more reliable picture of the long-term changes in the birth and death rates in the District can be obtained when the individual variations, which for statistical reasons may occur at irregular intervals, have been smoothed out, as in the table on Page 14. This shows the birth and death rates expressed as averages of each 10 year period between 1891-1950, and from these certain trends can be traced and conclusions drawn with reasonable safety.

For example, the birth rate shows signs of becoming stabilised at a much lower level than obtained at the beginning of the century, whereas the death rate has remained comparatively stable throughout. Under these circumstances the annual excess of births over deaths has gradually disappeared with the result that the increase in the population from 9,437 in 1931 to the present figure of 12,820, has been brought about in the main by migration into the area. Again, it will be noted that the death rate of infants under one year at the turn of century

was 125 per 1,000 live births : fifty years later it was less than 40 and for the quinquennial period, 1951-55 was 25.

The decided downward trend in mortality from respiratory tuberculosis in contrast to the increasing death rate from heart disease and cancer are referred to elsewhere in the report.

In general all these trends in the vital statistics of the District conform fairly closely to the changing pattern of disease in the nation as a whole.

VITAL STATISTICS LANCASTER R.D.

The principal vital statistics for the six decennial periods between 1891 and 1950, together with those for each of the last six years, are given below :—

	Estimated population (all ages)	Live Births		Stillbirths		Deaths (all causes)		Infant Mortality		Maternal Mortality		Cancer (Deaths)		Respiratory Tuberculosis (Deaths)	
		No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n	No. of infant deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live-births	No. of maternal deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live & still-births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n
Mean of 10 yrs															
1891-1900	13,224	374.4	28.3	§	§	217.5	16.4	46.7	125	§	§	§	§	16.3	1.23
1901-1910	8,937	199.7	22.3	§	§	120.2	13.4	19.4	97	§	§	5.8	0.65	6.4	0.72
1911-1920	*9,001)	165.3	18.4	§	§	120.5	13.8	13.7	83	0.6	§	10.9	1.25	5.3	0.61
	†8,702)														
1921-1930	9,332	161.5	17.3	§	§	120.3	12.9	9.6	59	0.6	§	11.6	1.24	4.2	0.45
1931-1940	*9,829)	135.7	13.8	6.6	46	135.2	13.7	7.8	57	1.0	7.03	15.4	1.56	4.9	0.50
	†9,857)														
1941-1950	11,002	165.3	15.0	3.6	21.4	148	13.5	6.5	39.4	0.4	2.37	20	1.82	2.6	0.24
1951	11,990	185	15.4	5	26	164	13.7	6	32	Nil	Nil	21	1.75	3	0.25
1952	12,050	173	14.4	3	17	147	12.2	5	29	Nil	Nil	28	2.32	2	0.17
1953	12,240	188	15.4	1	5	130	10.6	3	16	1	5.29	26	2.12	1	0.08
1954	12,470	184	14.8	3	16	169	13.6	2	11	Nil	Nil	31	2.49	2	0.16
1955	12,680	162	12.8	4	24	176	13.9	6	37	Nil	Nil	18	1.42	2	0.16
1956	12,820	153	11.9	3	19	184	14.4	6	39	Nil	Nil	28	2.18	2	0.16

* For calculation of birth-rate.

† For calculation of death-rate.

§ Not available.

NOTE—1. From 1950 deaths from Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia and aleukaemia are included in the total of cancer deaths.

2. The population estimates and numbers of registered deaths for the years 1940-1949, inclusive, relate to civilians only.

3. The decrease in population at the change of the century was due to boundary alterations.

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1956.

Number	M.	F.	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	—	2
2. Tuberculosis, other forms	—	1	1
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1	4
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	3	3
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	7	15
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	2	2
17. Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	12	21	33
18. Coronary disease, Angina	26	16	42
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	5	7
20. Other Heart Diseases	15	13	28
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	4	3	7
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	6	—	6
24. Bronchitis	1	1	2
25. Other diseases of Respiratory System	2	—	2
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	2	4
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	1	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	7	14
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	1	1
34. All other Accidents	2	—	2
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Total deaths from all causes	96	88	184

DEATHS CLASSIFIED BY AGE GROUP AND PARISH — 1956.

PARISH	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	75-	80+	Total
Ashton-w-Stodday							1								1
Bolton-le-Sands										1	4	9	9	12	35
Cockerham					1						2	1			4
Ellel	1		1						1	1	2	8	2	6	22
Heaton-w-Oxcliffe											2			1	3
Middleton	1								1		2				4
Overton											2	1		1	4
Over Wyresdale												3		1	4
Priest Hutton												1	1		2
Scotforth												1	1		2
Silverdale												6	7	11	33
Slyne-w-Hest	1										8	3	8	6	26
Thurnham											2	2	1	1	6
Warton	2	1							1	1	8	5	6	8	32
Yealand Conyers												3			3
Yealand Redmayne	1											1	1		3
TOTALS	6	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	4	41	44	36	47	184

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.** Specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to the Pathologist at the Lancaster Royal Infirmary. Analysis of food and drugs is carried out under the direction of the Lancashire County Council.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.** Ambulance Services are administered by the Divisional Health Office of the Lancashire County Council, Health Division No. 2; Victoria House, Regent Street, Lancaster; the telephone number of the ambulance station is Lancaster 3311.

(c) **Domicilliary Services.** The services of District Nurses, Midwives, and Home Helps, to look after patients in their own homes, are provided by the Lancashire County Council, acting as the Local Health Authority. These services for the Lancaster Rural District are administered from the Divisional Health Office—address as above.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.** The following Centres and Clinics catering for the area have been established by the Lancashire County Council:—

School Clinics:

- (1) Market Street, Carnforth.
- (2) Thurnham House, Lancaster.

Child Welfare Centres:—

- (1) Market Street, Carnforth.
- (2) Memorial Hall, Hest Bank.
- (3) Parliament Street, Morecambe.
- (4) Euston Road, Morecambe.
- (5) St. John's Ambulance Hall, Heysham.
- (6) The Village Institute, Galgate.
- (7) Gaskell Memorial Hall, Silverdale.
- (8) Congregational Church Hall, Bolton-le-Sands.

The following clinics are administered by the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee:—

- (1) Tuberculosis—8, Middle Street, Lancaster.
- (2) Venereal Diseases—Special Treatment Centre, Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

(e) **Hospitals.**

Infectious Diseases:—Beaumont Hospital, at Slyne Road, Lancaster, is available and is administered by the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee.

Smallpox cases would be notified to the secretary of the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee, who would arrange for their disposal to a Smallpox Hospital.

Other Cases :—The Lancaster Royal Infirmary, The Queen Victoria Hospital, Morecambe, Lancaster Moor Hospital, Royal Albert Hospital, Bay View Hospital and three private nursing homes.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

CASES NOTIFIED — 1956.

Disease	All Ages	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 and over	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles	6	—	1	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	9	—	1	2	5	1	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis											
Respiratory	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	5	1	—	1
Meninges and C.N.S.	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total	32	—	3	5	9	4	2	7	2	—	2

1. **Total Incidence.**

The District was remarkably free of notifiable infectious diseases in 1956; a total of 32 cases were notified as against 144 in 1955 and 84 in 1954. This was due to the fact that it was an inter-epidemic year for measles, which tends to appear in alternate years.

2. **Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.**

For the sixth successive year there has not been a case of diphtheria notified. The young mothers of to-day do not realize the danger of this disease, but localised outbreaks still occur sporadically in this country. Despite the growing number of other vaccination and immunisation procedures, it is just as important now as it was 20 years ago that efforts be continued to ensure a high level of immunisation against diphtheria.

Only 3 cases of scarlet fever were notified, compared with 6 in the previous year.

3. **Measles and Whooping Cough.**

Following a big wave of measles, 109 cases in 1955, only 6 cases were notified in 1956, and a rise is to be expected in 1957.

There were 9 cases of whooping cough, 3 less than in the previous year. It is of interest to note that none of these occurred in children under one year of age, when it is most fatal. Immunisation against whooping cough is receiving increasing acceptance in the area, and it is to be hoped that this preventive measure will eventually bring this disease under control also.

4. **Dysentery and Food Poisoning.**

There were no notifications of bacillary dysentery and only one of food poisoning.

5. **Tuberculosis.**

Notifications of tuberculosis decreased from 10 in 1955 to 8 in 1956, and all of these except one were pulmonary cases. There were two deaths from respiratory tuberculosis giving a mortality rate of 0.16 per 1,000 population—the same as in the two preceding years.

Mortality from all forms of tuberculosis continues to decline throughout the Western world, and some authorities have forecast its virtual elimination before the end of the century. Nevertheless there are still many people in the community, particularly elderly people, in whom the disease has gone unrecognised. For example, in the Administrative County 20 per cent. of the total deaths from tuberculosis in 1955 escaped statutory notification as tuberculosis during life. It is apparent, therefore, that such unknown cases will continue to spread the infection. The old-established measures directed to the prevention and control of tuberculosis must still be vigorously pursued and supplemented by the newer methods, such as mass miniature radiography and B.C.G. vaccination.

6. Trend of Incidence of Infectious Diseases (1947-56).

In the table on page 23 the actual numbers of cases of certain infectious diseases notified each year from 1947-56 are compared.

INCIDENCE OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES LANCASTER R.D., 1947-56.

YEAR	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Measles	Whoop- ing Cough	Acute Polio- myelitis	Dysen- tery	Food Poison- ing	Resp. Tubercul- osis	Non-Resp. Tubercul- osis	Tubercul- osis (All Forms)
1947	2	4	87	29	—	—	—	8	—	8
1948	8	—	40	3	1	—	—	9	4	13
1949	10	—	33	5	2	—	—	6	7	13
1950	9	1	46	20	2	1	—	12	2	14
1951	14	—	138	39	1	—	—	10	3	13
Mean of 5 years 1947-51	8.6	1.0	68.8	19.2	1.2	0.2	Nil	9.5	3.2	12.2
1952	12	—	13	9	—	2	—	10	4	14
1953	8	—	65	13	3	—	28	8	1	9
1954	6	—	45	14	—	6	2	5	5	10
1955	6	—	109	12	1	—	2	9	4	13
1956	3	—	6	9	—	—	1	7	1	8
Mean of 5 years 1952-56	7.0	Nil	47.6	11.4	0.8	1.6	6.6	7.8	3.0	10.8

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

HOUSING.

Housing Schemes.

The Council's post-war housing schemes had been completed by the end of 1955, and provided accommodation as detailed below :—

Bolton-le-Sands	74 houses and 20 flats.
Cockerham	10 houses.
Ellel	132 houses, 8 flats and 4 shops and houses.
Heaton-with-Oxcliffe	4 houses
Middleton	56 houses and 2 shops and houses.
Overton	14 houses
Over Wyresdale	2 houses
Priest Hutton	4 houses
Scotforth	4 houses
Silverdale	26 houses and 8 flats
Slyne-with-Hest	78 houses, 4 flats and 2 shops and houses
Thurnham	20 houses
Warton	76 houses and 16 flats
Yealand Redmayne	28 houses
Total (all Parishes)	528 houses 56 flats 8 shops and houses
Total number of post-war dwellings	592

Of this total number, 42 houses were built specifically for agricultural workers in ten Parishes.

There are now no Council housing schemes in hand or contemplated, the emphasis having moved, in recent years to private enterprise development. There are a number of such schemes proceeding in Bolton-le-Sands and Slyne-with-Hest, as well as several individual houses in other parishes. During 1956 there were 112 new houses and flats completed by private enterprise.

At the end of the year there were 71 applicants for dwellings on the Council's waiting list. It is interesting to note that for the second year in succession, there was an average of almost exactly one dwelling per week became vacant and available for re-letting, so that the average waiting period should be in the region of eighteen months, though, of course certain pressing cases are given higher priority than others.

Inspections of Dwelling Houses.

Number of houses inspected under the provisions of the Housing Acts	320
Number of inspections involved	551
Number of houses found not in all respects fit	271
Number rendered fit after service of Notice	311
Number found to be unfit for human habitation	1
Number demolished as a result of formal or informal action	2
Number closed as a result of formal or informal action	1

Overcrowding. Nothing can be added to what has been said in previous years, overcrowding no longer presenting a serious problem. It is likely, of course, that an isolated case will be discovered from time to time, and it is felt that such cases should receive high priority, when a Council house in the locality becomes available for letting.

General Remarks. In my annual report for 1955 I gave a detailed summary of the report upon unfit housecs in the District, as submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government, in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. This summary was as follows :—

Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936	38
Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses	10
Number of houses to be demolished or closed within five years	24

Action has now been taken in respect of 15 of the houses included in the first five years programme, leaving 9 others to be dealt with during the remaining 3 years. Twelve of the houses have been vacated and either demolished or closed, and an undertaking from the owner of 3 others to make fit, has been accepted.

The carrying out of grant aided improvements to dwellings, under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, continued during 1956. 22 applications for grants were received and 21 were approved. 33 schemes were completed, involving improvements to 34 dwellings and the provision of 2 additional dwellings. Unfortunately, however, owing to financial considerations, the Council felt obliged at least temporarily, to suspend all further grants as from May, 1956, and this work has now come to a halt.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The following Authorities supply water in the district:—

Lancaster Corporation. The Parishes of Scotforth, Slyne-with-Hest, Bolton-le-Sands, Middleton, Overton, most of the Parish of Warton, part of Ashton-with-Stodday; and by agreement with the Morecambe and Heysham Corporation part of Heaton-with-Oxcliffe is supplied from the mains of that Corporation which supply Heysham, the rest of the Parish being supplied from the Lancaster Corporation mains.

Fylde Water Board. The Parishes of Cockerham, Thurnham, and part of Ashton-with-Stodday.

Lancaster Rural District Council. This Council purchases water in bulk from the Thirlmere Pipe Line and supplies the Parishes of Ellel, Priest Hutton, Yealand Conyers, Yealand Redmayne, a small part of Warton and Silverdale.

Part of the Parish of Over Wyresdale is supplied by private mains which are the property of the Earl of Sefton.

Origin and Particulars of Water.

Lancaster Corporation. The water supplied by the Lancaster Corporation is Moorland Water from the gathering grounds in Over Wyresdale. It is subjected to mechanical filtration and chlorination at Langthwaite and Scotforth Filter Houses before distribution and is also treated to bring it to seven degrees of hardness from its original state of about 2 degrees. The Corporation have also a connection to the Thirlmere Pipe Line.

The water supplied to the Warton Parish is obtained from the Reservoir at Withets. The gathering ground is of a Moorland nature but is liable to animal pollution. The Corporation, however, provides an effective and modern chlorination and filtration plant and the bacteriological analyses have shown the water to be good when supplied to the consumer. There is also a connection to the Thirlmere Pipe Line.

Fylde Water Board. This is also Moorland Water from the gathering grounds in the Pennine Range.

Lancaster Rural District Council. The water obtained from the Thirlmere Pipe line is from Moorlands and of about 2 degrees of hardness. It is understood that rough screening and chlorination takes place near its source. Considerable trouble is experienced

by the incrustation of iron mains and services and the discolouration of the water by Ferric Hydroxide. The latter while not injurious to health can at times render the water almost unpalatable. Apart from any question of treating the water the best remedy for this trouble is the use of cement lined or cement-asbestos pipes. Galvanised iron services have a very limited life of about seven years and the only reasonable substitute, lead, must be used with discretion as the water is at times liable to be plumbo-solvent in action.

The link main from Sturzakers Farm, Bay Horse to the Main A6 Road, opposite Ellel Grange, has been completed. A link main supplying Pennine View, Dolphinholme, has also been laid and connected to the new length of main from Bond Gate Farm to Four Lane Ends, resulting in considerably improved pressure in services in the immediate locality.

New Services. During the year 112 services were laid to new dwellings and 2 to existing houses. A main supply is now provided to 3,885 dwellings, being about 90% of all the dwellings in the district. The remaining 431 houses, etc., obtain supplies from other sources such as roof water, wells and springs.

Sampling of Water Supplies. Samples for bacteriological examination were taken as follows :—

Lancaster R.D.C., Main supply, Ellel	2
Lancaster R.D.C., Main supply, Yealand Conyers	1
Lancaster Corporation. Main supply, Warton	2
Lancaster Corporation Main supply, Hest Bank	1
Lancaster Corporation Main supply, Bailrigg (untreated)	1
Abbeystead Private Supply	1

All the above samples were reported satisfactory according to Ministry of Health standards.

Prevention of Waste. Routine work involving examination of weekly flow charts and meter readings, and following up any abnormal consumption figures with tests in the particular district concerned, was again a vitally necessary part of the job of maintaining the public supplies. In all, rather more than 300 tests on mains, etc., were carried out during the year in order to locate bursts and maintain consumption at normal levels.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Details of the methods of drainage and sewage disposal are as follows:—

Cockerham. Cockerham village and Housing Site is sewered and the sewage treated by means of a septic tank and rotary filter. The effluent is disposed of into the land drainage dykes.

The plant is considerably over-loaded and, as a result, silting of the dyke outfall occurs.

The scheme referred to in my previous report, to pump the treated effluent via a 4in. diameter rising main direct to the tidal River Cocker received technical approval from the Minister of Housing and Local Government. Owing to the economic circumstances, however, there could be no grant aid, and no definite time could be stated when financial approval for any loan could be forthcoming. The Council, therefore, I think, very wisely, decided to proceed with the work, financing it from ordinary revenue. At the year end tenders for the provision of pumping plant, laying of the rising main and the construction of the pumping station had been accepted, and an early start upon the work, in 1957, was anticipated.

Thurnham (Higher Thurnham). No details have been obtained of the disposal of the drainage from the few houses at the hamlet of Higher Thurnham, nor is effluent visible at any point. Lower Thurnham is sewered but the crude sewage discharges into the drainage dykes. A proposed scheme for the construction of a small disposal plant was approved by the Ministry, in conjunction with a proposal to erect four houses for agricultural workers. It was later found, however, that there was no demand for the houses and at least for the time being, the sewage disposal scheme is held up.

Glasson Dock is sewered and the crude sewage is discharged into the sea. Extensions to the third housing site have been completed.

Ellel. Galgate is sewered and the sewage is conveyed by means of a long pipe to discharge in the tidal portion of the River Conder at Conder Green. A little trouble is experienced at times owing to blockages in the long outfall pipe mainly due to the growth of roots through joints that have not been properly made. The installation of pumping plant and construction of a modern sewage works for this village will have to be considered ultimately.

Dolphinholme is sewered and the sewage treated by means of a recently constructed septic tank near Common Bank Farm, and

two rotary percolating filters by the side of the River Wyre, the effluent being discharged into the River.

Over Wyresdale. This Parish being of a scattered nature (1 person to 45 acres) has no drainage system, and no pollution has been found.

Middleton. Most of this Parish is now sewered. All sewers from the village and the four Council housing sites drain to the pumping station near Garden Terrace, which ejects the sewage via a rising main and gravitating sewer to the sewage works at Middleton Tower Holiday Camp.

These works are now grossly over-loaded and the effluent is very unsatisfactory during the Summer months.

The new system of disposal of the effluent by pumping via a 6in. diameter rising main into Messrs. Trimpell's Ltd., 18in. diameter sea outfall pipe came into operation in June, 1956. It has since operated very successfully and now only during periods of very heavy rain is there any discharge into the open dyke. At such times the sewage is greatly diluted and double screened to prevent any solids reaching the storm sewer, and indeed, merely assists in the flushing of the dyke.

Heaton-with-Oxcliffe. The old factory area at White Lund is properly drained but unfortunately when it was sold off in lots no steps were taken to preserve the pumping plant.

Consideration has already been given to a possible link up with the Morecambe Corporation sewerage scheme, in order to sewer the factory area, but it was apparent that the limited usefulness of such a scheme did not justify the high costs involved. It is to be hoped, however, that an alternative link up will be available for consideration in the near future, with a view to sewerage the White Lund Hill and Oxcliffe Road residential areas.

Overton. Piped sewers exist in Overton but no treatment is given to the outfall which discharges into a main drainage dyke some 100 yards from its junction with the tidal portion of the River Lune. This drainage dyke passes near to the highway at the Globe Hotel and it is at times objectionable.

It has been recommended many times, in the past that full treatment be given to this sewage as early as possible. It is now pleasing to report that a detailed scheme has been prepared for the construction of a pumping station on land opposite the Globe Hotel, and of a rising main laid to connect with the outfall

sewer to Middleton Sewage Works, near Carr Lane, Middleton. The scheme provides for necessary storm overflows to prevent surcharging of the pumping plant. I am further glad to include in my report the fact that it is the Council's intention to proceed with this scheme, financing out of ordinary revenue and that the starting date will probably be during the early part of 1958.

Sunderland Point in this Parish has a few private outfall pipes discharging direct into the tidal River Lune. It is considered that this method of disposal is satisfactory.

Scotforth. This Parish is also of a scattered nature (1 person to $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres) and has no drainage system.

Ashton-with-Stodday. There is no sewage scheme for this Parish which has only 25 houses in it.

Slyne-with-Hest. The greatest part of this parish is sewered and the sewage treated at the works at Hest Bank. A small portion of this parish, adjoining the junction of Hest Bank Lane with the main road, is not sewered, but each house has its own septic tank and filter, for the maintenance of which the individual occupier is responsible.

In a previous report attention was drawn to the need for a public sewer, in the following words:—"It is to be hoped that circumstances will eventually allow the sewerage of this and other areas in the District, together with the construction of the necessary pumping plants and rising mains, to link up with existing gravitating sewers. In 1951 such outline proposals were indefinitely postponed by the Ministry, so that at least for the time being, the best will have to be made of existing conditions."

Although no pollution of water courses is possible in normal times, many of these private sewage disposal systems became totally submerged and ineffective for considerable periods owing to the flood water which affected this locality in the latter part of 1954. They were kept under observation, and it was found that they quickly recovered their functioning capacity as the flood waters subsided. This incident, however, which caused no small worry and inconvenience to a number of householders, emphasises the potential danger to public health which may arise, and lends urgency to the need for proceeding with a scheme to sewer this and other similar areas.

Bolton-le-Sands. The greater part of this Parish is sewered, the sewage being discharged crude into the mill race channel on the tidal foreshore at the end of St. Nicholas Lane. This outlet, while

it does not cause a nuisance, is not up to the modern standards of Sewage Disposal, and it is suggested that some form of treatment, or settlement of solids be given to the sewage before it is discharged.

St. Michael's Lane and part of the Coastal Road is not sewered, the property being drained into septic tanks with filters and cesspools.

There was considerable delay in completing the new 15in. diameter relief sewer to relieve surcharging at the Northerly end of the village, but eventually the system was connected up to the old sewer, and came into operation during the latter part of the Summer. Tenders had also been accepted for re-laying, the trunk sewer from Town End Farm to the manhole opposite St. Michael's Lane. This is only an 8in. or 9in. diameter pipe and is very much over-loaded at times, as a result of which overflows of sewage from manholes along its route have often occurred in the past. This length will finally complete the relief of overloading of the system, as far as can be foreseen.

Warton. The Millhead portion of Warton is sewered and the sewage disposed of to the Carnforth Works. The remainder of the Parish, with the exception of the Western end of Sands Lane, is also sewered and disposed of crude into the semi-tidal waters of the River Keer. It is recommended that at some future date steps be taken to provide some form of treatment for the sewage before it is discharged into the river.

A new tidal valve has been fitted at the end of the sewer out-fall pipe, prior to the point of discharge into tidal water, with a view to preventing the "back-flooding" of the system, which occurs during periods of high tides. There will still be sur-charging during storm periods, and it would seem that very little can be done to prevent this until a complete scheme for the pumping and treatment of the sewage has been implemented.

Yealand Conyers. There are no public sewers in this small Parish. The largest group of houses are, however, drained into a septic tank with rotary percolating filter. No pollution of water courses takes place. Several cesspools are emptied by the Council at the request of the owners and the contents disposed of on the land.

Yealand Redmayne. The Housing Site and part of the village is sewered to a disposal tank, which drains into a duplicate system of land drains.

A new effluent disposal area was brought into use during 1955 and, it would appear that what had become a very difficult problem in recent years, has been successfully overcome.

Priest Hutton. There is no public drainage system for this Parish. All the property is drained into cesspools or septic tanks and filters.

A number of houses in the village have been provided with modern septic tank drainage systems in recent years, and pollution of the stream is now less evident and indeed may no longer occur, except in the vicinity of the school.

Silverdale. The whole of Silverdale being built on solid rock has no public sewers, with the exception of the system draining the housing site and a few properties adjoining. Each house has its own cesspool and regular arrangements exist for emptying the cesspools and disposing of the contents on the land. This arrangement has proved very satisfactory and very few complaints are received.

GENERAL.

There are 3,675 houses on the water carriage system, 2,750 being connected to the sewers and 925 to cesspools, etc. There are also 644 premises which have closets other than water closets.

The policy of the Council to order the conversion of any closet to a water closet and to contribute half the cost of the work involved, as laid down under the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, has been pursued almost to its limit since the war.

Grant aided improvement works, however, continued to add to the number of conversions carried out during 1956. Thus, by the year end 32 such conversions had been completed, over half involving the construction of a septic tank system of sewage disposal.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The whole of the District is scavenged by direct labour, four motor vehicles being normally in use, and two others available when called upon. It is possible to maintain fairly regularly, a fortnightly collection.

Four controlled tips are in regular use, and in addition, one small tip as a "reserve" when access to the "Over-Lune" area tip is barred by high tides. The details of the tipping arrangements are as follows :—

1. All Parishes to the North of Lancaster. Controlled tip at Cote Stones. Warton. Tipping space available for many years.

2. "Over-Lune" part of the District (i.e. Parishes of Heaton-with-Oxcliffe, Middleton and Overton).

Controlled tip on the tidal marsh between Sunderland Point and Overton, where proper access has been formed, sub-drains laid, and a barrier constructed. The scheme not only provides tipping space for several generations but also will result in the reclamation of some 16 acres of land.

3. Parishes to the South of Lancaster.

The bulk of the refuse from these parishes is deposited on the newly acquired controlled tip near Parkside, in the Parish of Ashton-with-Stodday. Here again, there is sufficient capacity to serve for many years.

4. The remainder, largely from the Abbeystead and Dolphinholme areas, is tipped at Mainstones Quarry in the Parish of Ellel, which is another large site.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS (excluding visits made in connection with Housing Act matters as detailed on Page 24).

Premises visited or purpose of visit.	No. of visits.
Houses—Public Health matters	121
Re Water Supplies	33
Re Drains or Sewers	396
Re Infectious Diseases	81
Caravan Sites	25
Factories and Workshops	37
Ice-cream Premises	42
Other food Premises	169
Visits re Meat inspection	55
Shops Act Inspections	130
Miscellaneous visits	182
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Total number of visits	1271

In addition 638 visits of inspection to buildings in course of construction, and 300 visits or tests in connection with the detection of wastage of water were made during the year.

Number of defects or nuisances discovered	326
Number of defects remedied or nuisances abated	306
Number of Informal Notices served	62
Number of Formal Notices served	5
Legal Proceedings	Nil

Camping Sites. During 1955, there were 16 licensed sites for moveable dwellings and 14 caravans licensed "individually." In all, at the height of the Summer Season, there were approximately 1,100 moveable dwellings stationed within the District, and the maximum number of occupiers at any one time was probably rather more than 2,000 persons, 25 visits of inspection were made during the year, and generally, the sites continued to be well conducted.

Schools. There is no doubt that the fact that fifteen of the seventeen schools within the District are now provided with a water-carriage system of sanitation is a standard much better than average for a Rural area. Regarding the two remaining schools still dependant upon dry lavatories, it is agreed that the problem of providing adequate drainage to enable conversion at Glasson Dock Church of England School is a considerable one, from a financial aspect. Nevertheless, I again stress the desirability of proceeding with some suitable drainage scheme to serve this school as soon as ever possible. In the case of Abbeystead Church of England School, however, it is most disappointing to report that no further progress has been made, in implementing proposals for conversion of the dry lavatories, although a comparatively simple scheme was prepared more than two years ago.

Regarding water supplies, all schools are supplied from public mains, with the exception of Abbeystead Church of England School. The private supply to this latter school is regularly examined for bacteriological contamination, and is found to be consistently satisfactory.

Swimming Baths. There are no public baths in the district, but two privately owned. Only one of these, that at the Middleton Tower Holiday Camp, was used during 1956. Two samples of this bath water were taken for bacteriological examination, and both were reported "satisfactory."

Smoke Abatement. There are seven factory and works chimneys in the district (excluding Messrs. Trimpell Ltd., and I.C.I. Ltd.) and no action has been necessary regarding smoke abatement.

Canal Boats. There are a few Canal Boats which pass through the district but these are inspected by the Lancaster Corporation. No further action is taken by this authority.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades carried on in this district.

Common Lodging Houses. There is one common lodging House at Millhead, Warton. The general standard is fair. In-

spections were frequently made during the year and notices served in order to maintain a reasonable standard.

Underground Sleeping Rooms and Houses Let in Lodgings.
There are none in the district.

Shops and Offices. As from April, 1956, the routine inspection of premises under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, on behalf of the Lancashire County Council, was undertaken by the Council. Thus, in addition to matters dealt with directly, such as sanitary accommodation, ventilation and temperature, enquiries were made concerning the employment of young persons, lighting, washing facilities, facilities for taking meals and certain special provisions relating to the employment of female assistants. During the year 130 such inspections and enquiries were carried out and a number of minor infringements reported to the County Medical Officer of Health, in whose hand the enforcement of that part of the Act remains. By far the greater number of shops in the District are entirely family businesses with living accommodation attached to the business premises, and not involving the employment of any person other than members of the family.

**Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces
(Factories Act, 1937).**

Number of Inspections	37
Number of Written Notices	2
Prosecutions	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk. The systematic programme of sampling of milk distributed throughout the District was continued during 1956. A summary of the results of the various tests and examinations is given below :—

(a) Raw Milk.

- (i) Tuberculosis-biological tests.
No. of samples, 100. No. Positive, Nil.
85. No. Negative.
15. No Result.
- (ii) Bacteriological examinations—B. Coli.
No. of samples, 125. No. Satisfactory 97
No. Unsatisfactory 8 (8.25%)
- (iii) Methylene Blue reduction test.
No. of samples, 105. No. Satisfactory 100
No. Unsatisfactory 5 (4.77%)

(b) "Heat treated Milk.
"Pasteurised."

(i) Phosphatase test.

No. of samples,	14.	No. Satisfactory	14
		No. Unsatisfactory	Nil

(ii) Methylene Blue reduction test.

No. of samples,	14.	No. Satisfactory	14
		No. Unsatisfactory	Nil

(iii) Bacteriological examinations—B. Coli.

No. of samples,	14.	No. Satisfactory	14
		No. Unsatisfactory	Nil

It is pleasing to note that there were no positive T.B. results reported, that all the samples of heat-treated milk were found to be satisfactory in all respects and that the percentage of unsatisfactory B. Coli and Methylene blue test results was only about one half of the average for the whole of the Administrative County for the previous year (the latest figures available).

There were 16 "dealer's licences" issued authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin tested" and 9 for "Pasteurised." As far as can be ascertained there was no "Sterilised" milk sold in the District during 1956.

There are, in all, 39 distributors of milk operating in the District, of which 17 are producer/retailers, 12 are dairymen operating from premises in the District, 3 are shopkeepers in the District and 7 are distributors operating from premises outside the District.

Any "repeated" unsatisfactory samples are reported to the Ministry of Agriculture Milk Advisory Officer, from whom excellent co-operation has been given at all times.

Positive "T.B." results would be immediately reported to the Lancashire County Council Veterinary Inspector and during the period of investigation of the herd, arrangements would be made for the heat-treatment of the milk supplies concerned prior to sale for human consumption.

Ice Cream. 42 visits of inspection to registered premises were made during the year and 9 samples taken for bacteriological examination. 6 were reported Grade 1, 1 Grade 2, 1 Grade 3 and 1 Grade 4. The tendency over the past nine years has been for the number of small manufacturing premises in the District to decrease, there now being only 4 such premises, to which special attention is paid. Unsatisfactory samples are followed up, and advice given in order to bring about the desired improvement.

Meat. During 1956, the only routine slaughtering was carried out at the Cockerham private slaughterhouse. Here, a very high standard of quality was maintained. Emergency slaughtering of pigs suspected of swine fever was carried out at two farms, resulting in 4 whole carcasses and 19 parts or organs being condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	60	12	Nil	375	70
Number inspected	60	12	—	250	70
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	—	Nil	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	19	6	—	31	21
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	31.7	50.0	—	12.4	32.9
Tuberculosis only :— Whole carcasses condemned :	Nil	Nil	—	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	—	Nil	2
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	2.9
Number of carcasses found to be affected with cysticercus bovis	Nil	Nil	—	—	—

Other Food Premises. With the coming into operation on 1st January, 1956, of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, a systematic inspection of all premises where food is handled, prepared or offered for sale, was commenced. By mid-summer all such premises had been inspected, details duly recorded and where necessary, notices had been served requiring the carrying-out of works, etc. Towards the end of the year the re-inspection of premises was commenced

and in almost all cases it was found that notices had been complied with. Where this was not so, it was merely a question of waiting for contractors to commence work, orders having been placed. Special attention was paid to premises where food was prepared, such as hotels, restaurants, cafes and food manufacturing premises. Except for a number of the larger shops, most of the retailing grocers and confectioners sell almost entirely pre-packed or wrapped foodstuffs and every encouragement is given to further this tendency. Where "open" or perishable foods are sold, great emphasis is made on the desirability of keeping such food under suitable glass display cabinets, or other adequate protection, if possible at refrigeration temperature. On the whole, a very high standard of cleanliness is maintained in the shops throughout the District, partly, no doubt, because failure in this respect, would very quickly result in loss of trade. This is one example of how the co-operation of the public can greatly assist Public Health administrators. Every housewife can be a Public Health inspector when she goes shopping, merely by carefully observing conditions in the shop, and comparing them with those she maintains in her own kitchen and larder. The same co-operation, by discrimination, in public eating places can be given to some extent by observing the condition of crockery, cutlery, table cloths or surfaces, and the clothing and appearance of those engaged upon the preparation and serving of food. I have often lightly dwelt upon the thought that a law requiring the partition wall between the eating room and the kitchen to be in clear glass panels might achieve remarkable results in very quick time, in regard to the general condition of food preparation rooms. The public are daily visitors, the Public Health Inspector can only be an infrequent visitor.

List of Food Premises.

General grocers and provision dealers	35
Greengrocers and fruiterers	2
Fishmongers	1
Meat Shops	7
Bakers and confectioners	6
Fried fish shops	6
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	16
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, etc.	50
	<hr/>
	123
	<hr/>

Adulteration. This part of food inspection is dealt with by the Lancashire County Council.

Bakehouses. There are now four bakehouses in the District, situated, one each at Bolton-le-Sands, Middleton, Overton and Silverdale. A small bakehouse in the Parish of Ashton-with-Stodday has ceased to operate. Notices requiring additional personal washing facilities, under the provision of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, were served during the year and these have all been complied with. On the whole a good standard of general cleanliness is maintained, though in certain cases, there is still room for further improvement.

Rodent Control Work. During the year inspections and test baiting were carried out at 439 premises, of which 262 were concerned with agriculture. 59 treatments and re-treatments were completed, involving 177 visits. 309 inspections of 103 manholes on the various sewerage systems were made following test-baiting on treatment. These latter were found to be remarkably free from rodent infestation.



